

Dean A. Lerner, Director

State Inspectors to Check Iowa State Fair Midway Games

DES MOINES, IOWA (August 4, 2008) - Inspectors from the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) will conduct a walk-through of the Iowa State Fair midway at 1 p.m., Thursday, August 7. Inspectors will be checking the amusement concession games to make sure that they appropriately licensed, and that the games are conducted in a fair and honest manner. Representatives from the Iowa Department of Public Safety (IDPS) will accompany DIA inspectors on the midway walk-through.

DIA inspectors yearly conduct checks of all games of skill or games of chance at the Iowa State Fair. State regulators make sure the object of each game is attainable and possible for the average person to perform under the rules of the game. Additionally, inspectors make sure that the rules of the game are clearly posted, the base cost to play each game does not exceed \$3, and that all prizes are awarded in merchandise.

State law does not require that Iowans can win each game at a fair or carnival. However, the games must be fair and the results must be attainable by the average individual without the assistance of special skills or devices.

The Department's Social and Charitable Gambling Unit is responsible for licensing and regulating all amusement concession games such as those at the Iowa State Fair as well as bingo operations, raffles, annual game nights, and registered amusement devices. State law enforcement officials are responsible for enforcing Iowa's social and charitable gambling laws. State officials will periodically visit the midway during this year's State Fair to make sure that the carnival operators are adhering to all licensing requirements.

###